

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

CHARLES J. SIEVERT,

Petitioner,

v.

DIRECTOR OF SANDRIDGE SECURE
TREATMENT CENTER,

Respondent.

ORDER

11-cv-698-wmc

Petitioner Charles Sievert, a civilly committed patient under Wis. Stat. Ch. 980, Wisconsin's Sexually Violent Persons Law who is housed at the Sandridge Secure Treatment Center in Mauston, Wisconsin, has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Also listed on the case caption as a petitioner is Anthony L. Thomas. I have removed Anthony Thomas from the case caption because two petitioners cannot proceed in a single habeas case. If Thomas wishes to proceed with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, then he will need to submit his own petition, and either pay the \$5 filing fee or file a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Thomas must be sure to sign his documents before filing; I note that he did not sign the petition or the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a).

Petitioner Sievert has requested leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and has supported his request with an affidavit of indigency. Because he is a patient and not a prisoner, petitioner is not subject to the 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act. However, this court has adopted the PRLA's formula for determining indigence for all institutionalized persons, even when the PLRA does not apply. Although petitioner has supported his request with an affidavit of indigency,

I cannot determine whether petitioner is indigent for the purpose of filing a § 2254 petition until he submits a trust fund account statement for the full six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his habeas corpus petition. *See Longbehn v. U.S.*, 169 F.3d 1082 (7th Cir. 1999). Petitioner's trust fund account statement should cover the six-month period beginning approximately March 3, 2011 and ending approximately October 3, 2011.

Once petitioner submits his trust fund account statement, this court will calculate petitioner's average monthly deposits and his average monthly balances for the six-month period mentioned above. If 20% of the greater of these two figures is \$5 or more, then he will not be eligible for indigent status and he will have to prepay all of the \$5 filing fee. If 20% of the greater of these two figures is less than \$5, he will be required to prepay whatever portion less than \$5 has been calculated.

Now that petitioner is aware of the formula this court uses in determining whether a prisoner is indigent for the purpose of paying a \$5 filing fee, he may be able to figure easily whether he qualifies. If he knows that he will not qualify for indigent status, he may elect to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$5 in lieu of the six-month statement requested above. In any event, petitioner should act quickly. If, by November 10, 2011 petitioner does not submit either the \$5 payment or a trust fund account statement for the last six months, his request for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be denied and this action will be closed.

Entered this 18th day of October, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge